

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5815

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7889

FOR LABATT IMMERMANN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, JA, NI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JAPANESE STUDY GROUP ON MULTINATIONALS

REF: TOKYO 10304

1. WE WOULD BE HAPPY PROVIDE BRIEFING. PLEASE ADVISE GROUP TO CONTACT POLITICAL RPT POLITICAL OFFICER WILLIAM B. HARRIS, FYI--IN RESPONSE TO NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON EMBASSY LAST YEAR TO ABOLISH LABOR ATTACHE JOB, HARRIS HAS NOT USED LABOR TITLE AND HAS GENERALLY MAINTAINED LOW PROFILE THIS AREA.

2. IMMERMANN MAY WISH INFORMALLY ADVISE GROUP BE PREPARED MOVE DISCREETLY IN GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF XENOPHOBIC SUSPICION PREVAILING HERE SINCE ABORTIVE FEBRUARY COUP. LABOR IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AREA AT PRESENT. GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ASSERTING ITS AUTHORITY OVER LABOR MOVEMENT AND SPECIAL TRIBUNAL IS INVESTIGATING PAST ACTIVITIES OF UNIONS AND THEIR LEADERS. FOREIGN INFLUENCES ON MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED ONE OF FOREMOST CAUSES PAST WOES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, GROUP MEMBERS MAY HAVE GREATER THAN USUAL DIFFICULTY MEETING LABOR LEADERS, PRESUMING SUCH MEETINGS INTENDED.

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